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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Putin of Russia (S)

PARTICIPANTS: President Putin

Interpreter: Peter Afanassenko

Notetakers: David Waldman, Susan Brockhaus,
and Jon Rohmiller

DATE, TIME June 19, 2006, 1:14 - 1:32 p.m. EDT

AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hey Vladimir. How are you? (U)

President Putin: I am fine, George. How are you? (U)

The President: I am doing well. Thanks for calling. (U)

President Putin: So, as I promised, I am calling after my meeting with the president of Iran. I believe that Lavrov and Ivanov informed your people through their channels, but I would like to do it in person. (S)

The President: Good. (U)

President Putin: So, first I would like to say that they formally accept as positive the proposal by the six parties. Second, they are prepared to start negotiating. Third, they are prepared to start negotiations within one month. The last point is about the date of one month. President Ahmadi-Nejad asked me not to tell the press about it. He said that Iran would like to do this independently. That is, in the Security Council at the U.N. or by their Secretary of Security. Of course, as they did before with talks with other countries, they are trying to oppose the positions of one of the six countries against one of the other five countries. But, I told him right away that this was coordinated, an agreed position of the six countries and Russia would not go alone. This was said clearly, it was said crystal clear and out loud and the assistant of the President took note. We left no stone unturned, and we told them directly that there

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was no chance to get the United States against Russia or Russia against the EU, and that was said clearly. He told me they set up a special commission to review our proposal. I am not sure whether it was a technical step or really a desire to work out a solution. Time will show. I again reaffirmed our position that Iran has the right to nuclear technology, but we proposed to do it in such a way that the international community would not be concerned. We are prepared to set up the network of focal points and coordinating centers, so that Iran would have access to nuclear technologies. But only in exchange for the reciprocal step and that is for Iran to freeze enrichment. Now I would like to tell you my personal impressions of our meeting. I have the feeling that he has grown more mature, that he has turned from tribune into politician. I believe that he has become more quiet, so he was not that intensive in communication, and he was prepared to listen to us. After my first meeting with him in New York, I did not have that impression. So, that is what I wanted to tell you about Iran, and shortly we would have some follow-up. (S)

The President: Thank you very much. I cannot thank you enough for being very clear. I think it is important he see the United States and Russia working very closely together on a common sense plan. This will cause him to find a common sense solution. I just gave a speech to one of our service academies, and I said the Iranian regime deserves to have nuclear power under safeguards. So we are on the same wavelength, and your meeting was very important. I thank you for the update. The only other thing that is somewhat troubling is North Korea firing a missile somewhere. I know that we have been in touch with your government, so we are fully aware of what he may or may not do. The Japanese are of course very nervous, and in my opinion, the Chinese need to step up and explain to Kim Jong Il that if you fire a missile without warning, without explanation, there will be consequences, and it will hurt our relations. I appreciate you working with us on this issue, too. (S)

President Putin: Yes, with all that, they are planning something over there, and Rumsfeld called Ivanov over this issue. We have real doubts that they have a ballistic missile that could reach the United States. But I agree with you, whatever they are trying to launch over there, we should be notified and get informed about it. And of course, we should talk to our Chinese friends on this. (S)

The President: Yes, I have done that and hope you do this as well. (S)

President Putin: Okay then, we will do our part and hold consultations as well. By the way, about Iran, I have talked

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(with Hu Jintao, and I have the impression he is really prepared to work with us on this, and they don't have a different position. I saw a report on your very efficient visit to Iraq. I would like to express my appreciation to your Secret Service and intelligence services who are involved in trying to locate our diplomats kidnapped in Iraq, and I hope these efforts will continue, and I will get your support on this. (S)

The President: Absolutely. Believe me, we want to help free them. I talked about this issue with the top levels of our military. (S)

President Putin: It seems to me if we can resolve this problem together it will be very productive. By the way, the Iranians told me that "you don't want the Americans by your side," and I told him that we would like to see the Americans by our side as it will only solidify the relationship. (S)

The President: Thanks, you are taking a very important leadership role with this. (S)

President Putin: I am expecting you in St. Petersburg, so I am looking forward to seeing you. (U)

(The President: I am coming and hoping for a good bilateral meeting the night before. (S)

President Putin: Then we could elaborate on our bilateral statement and our colleagues are engaged in this effort based on your proposal. (U)

The President: We'll let them work, and you and I will eat blini. Do you remember the fish you told me about where they cut it open? (U)

President Putin: We will tie the fish to the boat, and it will be waiting for you. I wish you all the best and all the best to Laura. (U)

The President: Yes, give my best to your wife, and thanks for taking the lead on this issue. It is really helpful. (U)

President Putin: Thanks George for the kind words. (U)

The President: Good-bye. (U)

President Putin: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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